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Written by HAYSON

3 June 1969

OC-8071

BIV

z. Hl. des Herrn Zaengler

BETRIFFT: Edmund Ivan KIRCHNER, geb. 6 Januar 1900 in Komotau/CSSR
wohnhaft Koeln-Volkhoven, Kornblumenweg 5

BEZUG : BIV v. 14. Dezember 1964 IV A 4-112-70413-6/64 VS-Vertr.

1. Our files contain extensive information on Subject, the majority of which pertains to his activities between 1947 and 1952, a summary of which is forwarded below.

2. Information dated 26 April 1945, providing information on Abwehr Brandenburg Division s.b.v. 800 in the Near East, probably Egypt, reported that one Ivan KIRCHNER, a native of Sudetenland, married, with one son one and one-half years old was a journalist by profession and had written a book called "Sperrfeuer um Mahost." He had spent a long time before the war in Baghdad and had also been in Abyssinia. In the years immediately preceding the war KIRCHNER was in Cairo, where he then worked for the Abwehr. When war broke out he transferred to the SD. In 1942-43 he was editor in Athens of the paper "Deutsche Nachrichten in Griechenland". Later he had an office near the German Embassy which was called "Orient-Press". It was also reported that KIRCHNER had worked in Athens in an Abwehr Group I capacity for the SD and had organized a network of agents in Egypt. He also worked with the Italians. In addition, KIRCHNER had worked out a proposal for Abwehr Group II according to which sabotage was to be undertaken in Egypt. He allegedly handed this plan to a certain member of Abwehrstelle, Athens, and not to Hauptmann Schiffbauer, then leader of the Group II, as he considered Schiffbauer to be an idiot. In September 1944 KIRCHNER apparently flew back to Germany. KIRCHNER was described at that time as 1.75 m tall; stout build; light hair and eyes; full face; about 40 years old; and wearing a light moustache.

3. Reports dated 1948 indicated that Edmund Ivan KIRCHNER, born 6 January 1900, was a member of the SD Vienna (RSHA) in 1944, and that he was also reported in Athens as a member of the Fifth Column. He was interned by the British on 5 September 1945 in Graz.

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4. Unevaluated information on file dated September 1948 indicates that Edmund KIRCHNER born 6 January 1900 in Komotau, CSR, organized the German Near East Intelligence Net in Egypt prior to 1940, not further clarified. In 1940 he was assigned to the German Legation in Athens, where he headed the anti-Greek news agency "Orient Presse" and served with Sipo and the SD, with the rank of SS Unterscharführer, in 1941. In 1942 he was assigned to the post of Chief of the AST in Athens. Subject also claimed to have been with the Abwehr in Greece.

5. Information dated 1949 indicates that Edmund KIRCHNER, also known as KIRCHNER-DEMIZENI, born 6 January 1900, allegedly a specialist in Eastern Affairs, was reported as working for the AIS in Bad Gastein and Salzburg. He was a member of a CIC intelligence collecting net. His mission was to collect order of battle information on the Yugoslav Army. He was also a principal agent in contact with the Austrian Volkspolizei and police in the area of Graz. By 1954 CIC considered KIRCHNER to be an intelligence fabricator and believed that he had fabricated all of the material collected from the Yugoslav net.

6. Further information on file dated September 1950 indicates that Subject was dropped as an informant of AIS on 15 August 1950 for reason of ineptitude.

7. We suggest that you query the British and the BND for possible further information.

8. Attached herewith is a copy of KIRCHNER's NSDAP file received from Berlin Document Center.

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OCA Liaison Officer